

House Concurrent Resolution No. 54

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BROWN (116).

6279L.011

2 **WHEREAS**, SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and formerly
3 known as the Food Stamp Program, is a government assistance program to help low-income
4 households pay for food; and

5 **WHEREAS**, a "household" is the basic unit used by the SNAP food stamp program. A
6 SNAP food stamp household is an individual or a group of people who live together and buy
7 food and prepare meals together to eat at home; and

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9 **WHEREAS**, members of a SNAP food stamp household receive their benefits together,
10 on one EBT card, and their income is counted as a group in determining eligibility; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, household members who are applying for benefits must be United States
13 citizens or eligible noncitizens; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, undocumented or illegal noncitizens, noncitizens with undetermined status,
16 nonimmigrants, and noncitizens who do not meet length of stay or other immigration status
17 requirements are ineligible for SNAP food stamps; and

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19 **WHEREAS**, in addition, certain convicted felons who are citizens of the United States
20 are ineligible for SNAP food stamps; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, the household of any United States citizen or noncitizen who is ineligible
23 for SNAP food stamps may still receive SNAP food stamp benefits for the eligible people
24 residing with the ineligible United States citizen or noncitizen; and

25 **WHEREAS**, under current federal law and regulations, the income and financial
26 resources of an ineligible United States citizen who is a convicted felon is counted for purposes
27 of determining eligibility for and the amount of SNAP food stamp benefits. However, the

28 income and financial resources of an ineligible noncitizen are not counted for purposes of
29 determining eligibility for and the amount of SNAP food stamp benefits; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, as a result, the household of an ineligible United States citizen receives less
32 SNAP food stamp benefits than a comparable household of an ineligible noncitizen; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, this disparity in the treatment of households with an ineligible United
35 States citizens and households with an ineligible noncitizen is patently unfair and discriminatory
36 against the household of an ineligible United States citizen; and

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38 **WHEREAS**, the households of our United States citizens should not receive less SNAP
39 food stamp benefits than the household of our noncitizens:

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41 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
42 Representatives of the Ninety-sixth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
43 concurring therein, hereby strongly urges the United States Congress and the United States
44 Department of Agriculture to modify the federal laws and regulations regarding the SNAP food
45 stamp program which results in the households of the citizens of the United States receiving less
46 benefits than comparable households of noncitizens; and

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48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Missouri General Assembly urges this
49 disparity in treatment under the SNAP food stamp program be promptly addressed to provide the
50 same benefits for similarly situated households; and

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52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
53 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the
54 Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and United States House of
55 Representatives, the Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of
56 Agriculture, and each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

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